

NATIONAL DRUG PREVENTION AND EDUCATION WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 434, and the Senate now proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 434) designating the week of February 10 through 16, 2008 as "National Drug Prevention and Education Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD as if given.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 434) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 434

Whereas recent survey data suggests that illegal drug use among youth has declined by 24 percent since 2001;

Whereas, despite the reduction in drug use among youth, the number of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders who use drugs remains too high and the rates of prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse are alarming;

Whereas the overall rate of current illegal drug use among persons aged 12 or older is 8.3 percent, which has remained stable since 2002;

Whereas ecstasy (methylenedioxymethamphetamine, or MDMA) use among high school age youth has been rising since 2004;

Whereas, while methamphetamine use is down among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders, many counties across the country still report that methamphetamine is a serious drug problem;

Whereas 25 percent of youth in the 10th grade reported the use of marijuana during the past year;

Whereas youth who first smoke marijuana under the age of 14 are more than 5 times as likely to abuse drugs in adulthood;

Whereas nearly 6 percent of 12th graders have used over-the-counter cough and cold medications in the past year for the purpose of getting high;

Whereas Vicodin remains one of the most commonly abused drugs among 12th graders, with 1 in 10 reporting nonmedical use within the past year;

Whereas teenagers' and parents' lack of understanding of the potential harms of these powerful medicines makes it even more critical to raise public awareness about the dangers associated with their non-medical use;

Whereas the rates of use for any illegal drug are directly related to the perception of harm and social disapproval;

Whereas more than 20 years of research has demonstrated that prevention interventions,

designed and tested to reduce risk and enhance protective factors, can help children at every step along their developmental path, from early childhood into young adulthood;

Whereas prevention efforts should be flexible enough to address and prevent local problems before they become national trends;

Whereas research has demonstrated that there are 4 major targets of prevention: youth, parents, schools (including colleges and universities), and communities and social environments that must be reinforced by each other to have the greatest effect in deterring the consequences of drug use;

Whereas a comprehensive blend of individually and environmentally focused efforts must be adopted and a variety of strategies must be implemented across multiple sectors of a community to reduce drug use;

Whereas community anti-drug coalitions are an essential component of any drug prevention and education campaign because they are data driven, know their community epidemiology, and are capable of understanding and implementing the multi-sector interventions required to reduce the availability and use of drugs;

Whereas community anti-drug coalitions help to change community norms, laws, policies, regulations, and procedures to create an environment that discourages the use of drugs;

Whereas school-based prevention programs should be part of a comprehensive community wide approach to deal with drug use;

Whereas the more successful we are at general prevention of drug use in younger adolescents, the less we will have to deal with the concomitant economic and societal consequences of their use;

Whereas the total economic cost of drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse in the United States is more than \$500,000,000,000;

Whereas the savings per dollar spent on substance abuse prevention rather than on substance abuse treatment are substantial, and can range from \$2.00 to \$20.00;

Whereas there will always be new and emerging drug trends that require additional prevention and education efforts;

Whereas preventing drug use before it begins and educating the public about the dangers of drug use is a critical component of what must be a consistent and comprehensive effort to stunt and decrease drug use rates throughout the country; and

Whereas thousands of community anti-drug coalition leaders and community based substance abuse prevention, treatment, and education specialists come to Washington, DC to receive state-of-the-art technical assistance, training, and education on drug prevention at the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America's Annual National Leadership Forum in February: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 10–16, 2008, as "National Drug Prevention and Education Week"; and

(2) urges communities, schools, parents, and youth to engage in, and carry out, appropriate prevention and education activities and programs to reduce and stop drug use before it starts.

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2008 AS "GO DIRECT MONTH"

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 443.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 443) designating February 2008 as "Go Direct Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 443) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 443

Whereas, in fiscal year 2007, nearly 60,000 checks issued by the Department of the Treasury, worth approximately \$56,000,000, were endorsed by forgery;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury receives approximately 1,400,000 inquiries each year regarding problems with paper checks;

Whereas, each month, nearly 12,000,000 social security and other Federal benefit payments are made with checks;

Whereas the United States would generate approximately \$132,000,000 in annual savings if all Federal benefit checks were paid by direct deposit;

Whereas the use of direct deposit is a more secure, reliable, and cost-effective method of payment than paper checks because the use of direct deposit—

(1) helps protect against identity theft and fraud;

(2) provides easier access to funds during emergencies and natural disasters; and

(3) provides the people of the United States with more control over their money;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks have launched *Go Direct*, a national campaign to motivate people who receive Federal benefit payments to use direct deposit to receive those payments;

Whereas *Go Direct* works with more than 1,100 partners across the Nation, including financial institutions, advocacy groups, and community organizations;

Whereas more than 130 financial institutions representing 25,000 branches nationwide participated in the 2007 "Go Direct Champions" competition to encourage the use of direct deposit among people who receive Federal benefit payments; and

Whereas more than 1,600,000 people in the United States have switched from paper checks to direct deposit to receive Federal benefit payments since *Go Direct* launched in the fall of 2004: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 2008 as "Go Direct Month";

(2) supports the goals and ideals of the *Go Direct* campaign;

(3) commends Federal, State, and local governments, nonprofit agencies, and the private sector for promoting February as *Go Direct* Month; and

(4) encourages people in the United States who are eligible to receive social security or other Federal benefit payments to—

(A) participate in events and awareness initiatives held during the month of February with respect to using direct deposit;

(B) become informed about the convenience and safety of direct deposit; and

(C) consider signing up for direct deposit of social security or other Federal benefit payments.